

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 09803 201729Z

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ACTION EB-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4213

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9803

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY THOMAS ENDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, AU

SUBJECT: OPEC - SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPEECH IN
VIENNA, NOV. 19

REF: VIENNA 9775

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, NOV. 18, OPEC
SECGEN KHENE SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE ISSUE WITH
SECRETARY'S CHICAGO ENERGY SPEECH IN HIS OWN SPEECH
TO THE DANUBE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE, NOV. 19. ASKED
WHETHER HE HAD READ FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH
WHICH WAS SENT TO HIM THREE DAYS AGO, KHENE
REPLIED HE HAD NOT SINCE HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM
STOCKHOLM. SECOND COPY OF TEXT WAS SENT TO HIM
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER EARLY NEXT MORNING, NOV. 19.

2. ALTHOUGH KHENE'S SPEECH COVERED MUCH THE SAME
GROUND AS HE HAS DONE PREVIOUSLY, INCLUDING STATEMENT
THAT CONSUMING COUNTRIES WERE VOICING "THREATS AND
PRESSURES," HE DID IN FACT NOT COMMENT ON OR CIRITICIZE
SECRETARY'S SPEECH BUT RATHER CONCENTRATED ON GENERAL
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 09803 201729Z

THEME OF INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES' EXPLOITATION OF OIL
PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THE PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION,

FOOD , AND INFLATION.

3. IN BRIEF CHAT WITH KHENE AFTER HIS OWN SPEECH, ECONCOUNS ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ANY REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH. KHENE REPLIED THAT HE AGREED WITH A NUMBER OF SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS BUT DISAGREED WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF SPEECH. FOLLOWING HIS SPEECH KHENE WAS SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS; ONE OF THEM TOLD US LATER THAT KHENE AGREED WITH SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS ON NEED TO REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION AND TO FIND ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES.

4. COMMENT: AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT OPEC SEC GEN AND SOME SENIOR OPEC STAFFERS CONTINUE TO BE WEDDED TO DOCTRINAIRE VIEWPOINT AND PERSIST IN PREACHING PROPOSITION THAT HIGH OIL PRICES ARE NOT SOLELY TO BLAME FOR WORLD'S CURRENT ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONTACT BETWEEN OPEC AND OECD STAFFERS, AND IT SEEMS TO US NOW THAT NEW IEA IS OFF THE GROUND, A QUIET, LOW KEY EDUCATIONAL PROCESS FOR THE OPEC SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE INITIATED. SUCH PROCESS PROBABLY COULD BEST BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH IEA. HUMES

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